

INVESTING IN STATISTICS

FINANCIAL

Budget Planning

- Need to sensitize political directorate to importance of investing in statistics for good policy-making
- Prioritization of work programs
- CSO focuses on production of statistics - more analysis needed
- Inflexibility over approved budget funds – no autonomy
- Amalgamation vs decentralization/centralization of stats units – greater efficiencies?
- Co-ordination required amongst stats units and CSO's given its resources
- Increasing demand for production of statistics on a continuous basis
- Funding for increase staff size and more competent personnel

Statistical Programme

- First develop core program and associated budget
- CSO head to get approval by minister – see statistics as a greater priority

Financial Cont'd

- Need to market the products/services of the CSO
- Weak in data dissemination
- Resource constraint – buy out or produce inhouse?; strategic alliance with universities
- Adopt and adapt existing best practices, software etc

Financial Cont'd

- **Strategies/solutions**
 - Develop Business plans - Activity-based costing
 - Need to show how more resources will be converted into improved service delivery
 - Independence of CSO
 - Operate commercial unit at CSO – questionnaire input; cost for analysis; publication sales; website downloads

HUMAN

- Relevant training (applied training) – put training to immediate use
- Co-operation in training – inter-ministerial; regional; adopt CARTAC model
- Career interests in stats is poor – provide scholarships; marketing; public awareness of available jobs; online training
- Attractive remuneration to retain competent staff
- Staff need IT support
- Upgrading statisticians to become IT users
- Regional forum for discussing management issues amongst CSO staff; supervisory training
- Balance training – attachments; overseas training and in-house training
- Critical mass – minimum staff required for effective functioning of CSO

Human Cont'd

- Repackage training in sampling techniques, questionnaire design

IT

- Acquisition of relevant computer software and appropriate programmes— user friendly
- Proper use of computers – reduce abuse
- Train IT personnel to become efficient computer operators
- Empower subject matter staff to be IT proficient
- IT training for all CSO staff – access; SPSS
- Integrated families of relational databases – to extend reach of queries; data mining and warehousing – ECCB to create one;
- Standardization of content and tools; countries too small to do warehousing

IT Cont'd

- Revamp Management Information System of Tourism Statistics
- Make use of existing software – e.g PC AXIS – easy to install; web browser; does not support hierarchical dimensions; Eurotrace
- Standardization of systems– regional meetings amongst users are critical

INSTITUTIONAL

- Flatter organization – eliminate clerical work to enrich jobs
- Generalists vs specialists – to address issue of high turnover
- More autonomy and control over given budget – support move to CSO
professional independence protected by law
- Fostering trust and co-ordination between government agencies and CSO's
- Prevalence of “Turfing”

Public Awareness

- Public education to highlight importance of statistics to encourage input
- Marketing
- Establish priorities committee for resources and requirements – high level officials chaired by PS of CSO (inter-ministerial)
- Statistical Advisory committee comprising private sector, civil society and government officials to market statistics – CSO Head
- PR function – print and electronic media; town hall meetings and workshops and seminars for users and producers
- Marketing – website, brochures; newsletters
- Awareness in schools